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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomson et al.

: Group Art Unit: Not assigned

Serial No.: Not assigned

: Examiner: Not assigned

Filed: January 4, 2002

For: PRIMER CASING AND METHOD
OF CHARGING A BLASTHOLE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This amendment accompanies the filing of a National Stage application under 35 U.S.C. 371.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims

✓ Please replace claims 1-22 with new claims 23-42:

23. A primer casing comprising a sleeve portion and a leading portion, wherein the sleeve portion is adapted to receive a primer and comprises a blasthole engagement means, and wherein the leading portion comprises a nose cone which is provided at one end and as an extension of the sleeve portion.
24. A casing according to claim 23, wherein the primer is in the form of a

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